Working Capital Finance for Primary Weavers

*108. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been received by him requesting for permission to canalise the credit limits sanctioned to Primary Weavers Cooperatives by the NABARD through the branches of the Nationalised Banks and to treat the Weavers' Cooperatives at par with Harijans, Girijans and Women Cooperatives in order to obtain loans under D.I.R. scheme towards their working capital finance ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government has received such representations and considered the matter in consultation with NABARD and RBI. The credit limits are sanctioned to State Cooperative Banks by NABARD for financing the production and marketing activities of Primary Weavers' Cooperative Societies and procurement and marketing of cloth by Apex/Regional Weavers' Societies. The rate of interest charged from State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) for production and marketing activities of weavers' societies is 2.5% below bank rate. Similarly, the rate of interest charged from SCBs for financing purchase and sale of yarn by apex/regional weavers' societies is at the bank rate, which is at present 12%. The financial assistance from NABARD is available to commercial banks for investment credit only, and not for the production and marketing credit. The commercial banks provide loans to individuals/corporate bodies in accordance with the rates of interest prescribed by RBI from time to time. As regards Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme, the loans are provided to eligible borrowers of public sector banks at 4% rate of interest to the extent of only 1% of their advances as at the end of the previous year. The banks can route credit under the DRI Scheme through State Corporations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Cooperative Societies organised specifically for the benefit of tribal population, and there is no provision in the Scheme for lending through other kinds of cooperative including weavers' cooperatives.

Air India Offices in Punjab

*109. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has plans to tap Punjab market to make up lost revenue ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether the travel agents in Punjab have demanded to set up an Air India office at Jalandhar ;

(d) whether it is a fact that five offices of Air India were shut down during 1992 for unstated reasons ; and

(e) if so, what steps are contemplated by Air India to spread its offices in Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Air India continues to tap the Punjab market. Its market share at present stands at 21%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) After the appointment of a General Sales Agent in 1982 for the territory of Punjab, Air India offices were handed over to GSA with the objective of reducing costs. Opening up too many airline offices is generally not commercially a viable proposition.

New Expert Committee on Tehri Dam Project

*110. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI KAPIL VERMA :

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :